

No Red Plot Uncovered in Cleveland Riot

CLEVELAND (AP) — Two rookie Cleveland policemen who worked undercover as members of the Communist party and affiliated organizations say they know of no party preparations for the recent rioting in Cleveland's Hough area.

The 26-year-old policemen—promoted to the department's detective bureau—told a news conference yesterday that they had no personal knowledge of pre-riot plans.

However, Fred Giardini and Jesse Thomas, a Negro, told reporters that their work put them in contact with several persons named by the Cuyahoga County grand jury as "recurring personalities in the chain of events which preceded both the Superior and Hough situations."

Agitators Blamed

A few weeks before the major rioting in the predominantly Negro Hough area there had been minor disturbances and instances of fire bombings along Superior Avenue. Both areas are on the city's East Side.

The grand jury said in its report Tuesday that leftist and Communist agitators, augmented by local Black Nationalists, helped organize the Hough riots.

As clarification, Detective John T. Patton, of the police subversive activities unit, said:

"Please don't think that because we can't at this time divulge certain information and that because Jesse and Fred may not have been eyewitnesses to specific events that the grand jury report is not correct."

Data "Classified"

"No comment" was the answer both made when asked if the riots were Communist-inspired. They also said that much of their information was "classified."

Thomas said he became a member of the Communist party and soon was made a director of the party's youth organization in Ohio.